

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg, recessed from April 5, was held on the 12th day of April, 2005, at 1:00 P.M., Second Floor Training Room, City Hall, Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr., President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a work session regarding the FY2006 Budget. The following Members were present:

Present: Dodson, Foster, Gillette, Johnson, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Absent: Helgeson

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// Council Member Helgeson arrived at 1:30 p.m.

// School Board Chair Julie Doyle along with Schools Superintendent Dr. Paul McKendrick provided a brief overview regarding information contained in a April 11 letter regarding the Schools 2005-06 Budget request.

Ms. Doyle explained that even with the changes to the employee health care plan to reduce the projected program increase, there will still a \$960,376 deficit and asked that City Council provide additional funding to the Schools to help alleviate the deficit.

// Ms. Donna Witt, Assistant Director of Financial Services, provided an overview regarding FY 2005 Third Quarter Budget Adjustments. Ms. Witt explained that this item will be scheduled for public hearing on May 10.

// City Manager Kimball Payne provided a brief update regarding revenue projections, stating that the real property tax reassessment will generate an additional \$658,894 in revenue. Mr. Payne went on to say that following changes to proposed expenditures resulting from adjustments due to updated information as well as housekeeping and corrections that need to be made, the amount will be reduced to \$322,294 in additional revenue. Council Member Helgeson recommended that the City reduce the real property tax rate from \$1.11 to \$1.09 to offset the additional revenue and thereby providing some relief to the citizenry. Some Council Members commented that the City needs to maintain its core services, including the Schools, and that to reduce the tax rate might mean cutting some of those services. City Council then discussed potential adjustments to the FY2006 Budget and initially reached consensus to allocate the \$322,294 as follows: \$184,520 additional funding to the Schools, or 28% of \$658,894; \$30,142 for a salary increase for part-time Deputy Sheriffs; \$10,000 contribution to the Legal Aid Society; \$15,000 to the Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging, thereby leaving a balance of \$82,632. Some Council Members stated that they would like to provide more funding to the Schools, and Vice Mayor Foster made a motion, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to give \$250,000 instead of \$184,520 to the Schools. Council Member Seiffert stated that he could support giving the Schools \$200,000, but not \$250,000. The vote was called on the motion, and Council by the following recorded vote agreed to allocate \$250,000 in additional funding to the Schools FY2006 Budget:

Ayes: Dodson, Foster, Gillette, Johnson, Hutcherson

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Noes: Helgeson, Seiffert

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On motion of Vice Mayor Foster, seconded by Council Member Dodson, Council by the following recorded vote agreed to provide \$6,000 in additional funding to the Old City Cemetery:

Ayes: Dodson, Foster, Gillette, Johnson, Hutcherson

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Noes: Helgeson, Seiffert

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On motion of Vice Mayor Foster, seconded by Council Member Dodson, Council by the following recorded vote agreed to provide a one time funding of \$1,500 to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Center to update the Center's exhibits, and asked that those funds be taken from the \$50,000 set aside to be used at the discretion of the City Manager for special and extraordinary purposes:

Ayes: Dodson, Foster, Gillette, Helgeson, Johnson, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Noes:

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// During roll call, Council Member Seiffert stated that the break-even cost for the common goods fee is \$4.16, and made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Foster, to reduce the common goods fee from \$5.00 to \$4.20, effective July 1, 2005. City Manager Kimball Payne noted that the common goods fee is based on a calendar year and not a fiscal year, and that City Council might want to discuss what, if any, implications that such a reduction would have on the overall program. Following discussion, Council Member Seiffert withdrew his motion and asked that this item be added to a future work session agenda. Council Member Gillette inquired regarding a recent letter expressing a possible health concern from water being sprayed on individuals from the downtown fountain. City Manager Kimball Payne stated that he will ask staff to provide a report to City Council regarding the concern. City Manager Payne also presented the Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Memorial Bridge signs for Council's review. Mr. Payne explained that the City is waiting to receive approval for the design of the signs from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation, and that the signs will be installed once that approval has been received.

// On motion of Council Member Dodson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, Council by the following recorded vote elected to hold a closed meeting regarding the disposition of publicly held real property because discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position of the City and consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff concerning a specific legal matter, i.e., water contracts with the Counties pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) (3) and (7), respectively, of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended:

Ayes: Dodson, Foster, Gillette, Helgeson, Johnson, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Noes:

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// The meeting was re-opened to the public.

// Mayor Hutcherson made the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Lynchburg has convened a closed meeting on this date, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by City Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Lynchburg certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by Council.

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April 12, 2005

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Helgeson, and Council by the following recorded vote adopted the motion:

Ayes: Dodson, Foster, Gillette, Helgeson, Johnson, Seiffert, Hutcherson 7

Noes: 0

// The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Clerk of Council